

Navigating the Marketplace as a Young Adult

Young adults now have more health coverage options than ever before, and financial help is available to lower costs.

Make sure that you have all the information you need to choose the health plan that's right for you. Below are the answers to common questions from young adults about new coverage options.

How long can I stay on my parents' health plan?

If your parents are buying coverage through the Marketplace and are not eligible for financial help:

If your parents are buying a Marketplace plan without financial help, you can stay on that coverage until age 26 whether you are claimed as a dependent or not.

If your parents are buying coverage through the Marketplace and will be receiving financial help:

If your parents are receiving financial help to help pay for their Marketplace plan, you must be claimed as a dependent on their taxes in order to be included on that coverage.

If your parents have coverage through work or from somewhere other than the Marketplace:

If your parents have coverage through work or directly from an insurance company that covers family members, you may be able to stay on their health plan until you are 26 years old, whether you are claimed as a dependent or not.

You should confirm that your parents' plan covers family members before you make a decision.

If you are a veteran:

If you are a veteran, Illinois law requires certain health plans to allow veterans to stay on their parents' coverage until age 30.

I'm under 26 and married. Am I able to stay on my parents' plan?

Being married does not affect your eligibility to be covered under your parents' plan. The same rules apply.

Your parents' plan does not have to cover your spouse or your child.

I'm under 26, but want to get off my parents' plan. Am I able to sign up for my own coverage through the Marketplace?

Yes, you are still able to sign up for coverage through the Marketplace but the financial help available to you will vary based upon your tax status.

- **If your parents claim you as a dependent:** Their income will be used to determine your eligibility for financial help.
- **If your parents do NOT claim you as a dependent:** Your parents' income will not be used to determine your eligibility for financial help.

Also, keep in mind that you are not eligible for financial help if your employer offers health coverage that meets the basic value and affordability standards.

I'm enrolled in college out-of-state. Do I sign up for coverage in Illinois or the state I go to school in?

You have the option to sign up for coverage in either your home state or the state where you go to school. Different states have different rules for Medicaid eligibility, which might affect the amount of financial help you receive.

Doctors covered by your plan may also be limited outside the state where you purchased the plan. Some plans have national provider networks that cover doctors or hospitals in multiple states. Think about where you will most often need medical services before you choose.

Can I buy a catastrophic plan?

Yes, catastrophic plans are available for Illinois residents under 30 years old. These plans may have the lowest monthly premiums, but require the highest level of out-of-pocket costs for deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance.

Marketplace catastrophic plans cover three annual primary care visits and preventive services at no cost.

Financial help is not available for Marketplace catastrophic plans. Make sure to look at all of your options and the financial help available to you in order to make the best decision.

What happens if I don't want any coverage?

If you don't have coverage you may have to pay a penalty. The penalty in 2015 is calculated one of two ways. You'll pay whichever of these amounts is higher. For 2014, the penalty is \$95 or 1 percent of your income above the tax filing threshold. For 2015, the penalty is \$325 or 2 percent of your income above the tax filing threshold. If your income is below the federal income tax filing threshold, the penalty may not apply to you.